

FISCHER-HANSEN CONFESSES

GETS 12 MONTHS ON THE ISLAND ON PLEA OF GUILTY.

"Further Perjury Saved," Says the Judge, and Jerome Describes the Surprising Alleged Secrets of the Defendant Prisoner Signs Papers for His Wife.

Carl Fischer-Hansen, the attorney who has been on trial in the Criminal Branch of the Supreme Court on charges of bribing a witness against him at a former trial, pleaded guilty yesterday to attempted bribery and was sentenced by Justice Dowling to serve twelve months in the penitentiary. Before the plea was put in he signed before a notary some papers in which counsel for Isaac V. Brokaw, his father-in-law, was interested, and which it was learned related to family affairs.

The abrupt and unlooked for ending of the trial was accompanied by all kinds of rumors. One was based on the remark of Justice Dowling in pronouncing sentence that "further perjury has been saved." District Attorney Jerome refused to say whether or not an attempt to manufacture evidence had been uncovered. He did say that the defense had suddenly found the ground cut out from under it.

When the trial adjourned on Tuesday night Mr. Baldwin, Fischer-Hansen's attorney, was engaged in a wrangle with the District Attorney over the admission of certain evidence. Yesterday morning after half an hour's private talk with Mr. Jerome and Mr. Baldwin Justice Dowling told the jurors that because of information which had reached him he would adjourn the proceedings until 2 o'clock. He had another long conference with the attorneys, Fischer-Hansen, his partner, Alexander Michaelson, who was jointly indicted with him, and several of the most important witnesses who have appeared.

At 2 o'clock he announced that there would be a further adjournment until 5. "Do not think that I am wasting your time," he said to the jury. "What is now in progress may have the effect of materially shortening and simplifying your work."

After that no one doubted that Fischer-Hansen was about to offer to plead guilty, and the chief interest centered on the terms which it was understood he was attempting to make. He was again taken to Justice Dowling's chambers and this time he was in consultation with George Gordon Battle, his personal attorney, and with Aaron M. Beard of 5 Nassau street, attorney for Isaac V. Brokaw. Mr. Battle made several journeys to Mr. Jerome's office on the third floor, but refused to discuss the character of the negotiations. After Mr. Beard had had a long talk with Fischer-Hansen he sent up to Mr. Jerome's office for Charles W. Gould, Mr. Jerome's confidential man, who is also a notary public. Mr. Gould carried his seal to the chambers where the conference with Fischer-Hansen was going on and remained there for some time.

It was said later both by Justice Dowling and Mr. Jerome that the second adjournment was taken in order that Fischer-Hansen might arrange certain private matters before pleading. It was understood that he had signed certain papers which would help to free the Brokaw family from further connection with him. District Attorney Jerome would only say that so far as he knew the Brokaw family had held no communication with the Court, either direct or indirect, and that the postponement was taken in order that Fischer-Hansen might settle his private business. Mr. Beard said that the papers related to family affairs and that the family hoped that the prisoner would seek another crime after he had served his sentence. The papers had no relation to his plea or the sentence under it.

At 5 o'clock Fischer-Hansen again entered the court room and sat down with Mr. Battle and Mr. Baldwin. The latter at once addressed the Court, saying: "I directed Carl Fischer-Hansen, the defendant, to withdraw his plea of not guilty under this indictment and to enter a plea of attempt to commit the crime therein charged. In so doing I am asked to state that this in no way implicates the defendant Alexander Michaelson, who is innocent. I move that sentence be pronounced at once."

Fischer-Hansen was called to the bar, and after he had affirmed his plea of guilty and had answered the usual questions Justice Dowling said:

"It is not my purpose to say anything to add to the plight in which this attorney finds himself. It is a sad spectacle indeed to see a career end with a plea of this kind. In this case too there has been another victim, the unfortunate witness whose life has been ruined."

"Having in mind that as a consequence of this plea further perjury has been saved in this case and that the defendant will be disgraced and lose his means of livelihood I am not inclined to inflict the severest sentence. Neither am I inclined to suspend sentence, as has been asked, nor do I feel that this case is one that justifies a suspension of sentence. The defendant has been given a chance to arrange his affairs before pleading, and I order that the execution of the sentence be stayed one week to give him some time to finish this work. The sentence of the court is imprisonment for twelve months in the penitentiary."

If Fischer-Hansen had been found guilty of the crime charged in his indictment he would have faced a maximum sentence of seven years in State prison. The maximum penalty for the crime to which he pleaded guilty is three years and a half. Mr. Jerome gave out the following statement:

"Early last week I received an anonymous letter from a man in a Southern town who said that he had important knowledge of Fischer-Hansen's proposed defense. It looked like one of the usual offers which are made to a man on trial which attract public attention. But as Assistant District Attorney Jerome was in Washington over the Washington Birthday holiday it was decided to wait until the matter was cleared up. Last night Mr. Howe returned and at 30 we began by telegraph and telephone to get into communication with the

TAFT HAS CHOSEN HIS MAN

MAC VEAUGH FOR THE TREASURY THE TIP YESTERDAY.

But No Name Is Announced Yet—Conference With Hitchcock—Woodruff Told to Come Around After March 4 to Discuss Patronage in This State.

Mr. Taft has chosen a man for the Treasury portfolio, the one post that remained open in his Cabinet. Circumstances would not permit the President-elect yesterday to make the name of the Secretary public, but it is likely that some informal announcement will be made to-day.

There were plenty of rumors yesterday that the post was to go to a New York man. Wall Street had it figured out that Mr. Taft had come to this city for the purpose of selecting a New Yorker. As a matter of fact some New York folks were so firmly imbued with this idea that they offered to help Mr. Taft with suggestions. Half a dozen or more each had just the man to fill the bill, and they kept the Henry W. Taft telephone warm.

The new Secretary, however, is not a New York man. It is understood that he comes from a Western State. Franklin MacVeaugh of Chicago seems to be the most likely selection. He is a brother of Wayne MacVeaugh, who was Attorney-General in Garfield's Cabinet and served as Minister to Italy under Grover Cleveland. Franklin MacVeaugh is head of one of the largest wholesale grocery houses in this country, having gone into business after practicing law for several years.

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The President-elect attended the funeral of Douglas Robinson's son in the morning and spent the rest of the day receiving visitors at the Hotel Ten Eyck. To-night Mr. Taft had talks with a number of members of the Legislature at the hotel. He was entertained at dinner by Judge Willard Bartlett of the Court of Appeals. Mr. Taft will be entertained at luncheon to-morrow by Lieut.-Gov. and Mrs. Horace White at their Albany residence.

AUSTRIANS BEATEN TO DEATH.

Were Taken for Spies in Montenegrin Capital and Attacked by Mob.

Special Cable Despatch to THE SUN.

LONDON, Feb. 25.—The Vienna correspondent of the *Caroline* says that two Austrians, while walking on the street at Cetinje, Montenegro, were attacked by a mob and cut down to death on the pretext that they were Austrian spies.

The murderers cut off their ears and noses and displayed them triumphantly.

HIGHEST DANCING FLOOR.

A Feature of the Opening in June of the Queensboro Bridge.

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A plan for turning the upper section of the new Queensboro bridge into an immense dancing pavilion during the week of celebrating the public opening of that structure was announced yesterday by the committee having the celebration in charge.

It is proposed to lay a dancing floor over the top of the main thoroughfare. The floor is to be as wide as the structure and is to run along the span a distance of 1,182 feet. A canvas shelter will be provided and six bands will make music for the dancers. Three bands will be stationed in the tower on the Manhattan side of Blackwell's Island and three bands in the tower on the Queens side. The bridge will be illuminated from end to end.

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Harmless Skit on the "Englishman's Home" Barred From the Stage.

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The burlesque was intended as an item in a variety entertainment and would have occupied eight minutes. The humor turned on the big alien population in London and other large cities in England. In the burlesque the commander of the invaders bursting into the Englishman's home finds that the tenant is his long lost uncle. After mutual expressions of surprise the uncle asks what the invading force has come for. The nephew replies: "To take England."

Thereupon the uncle says: "You are too late. We have taken England long ago."

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WOMEN FOOTPADS IN IT.

Miss Louise Holcomb's Story of a Holdup on Sixth Avenue.

Miss Louise Holcomb, a teacher of vocal music having a studio at 16 West Twenty-second street, visited the new West Twenty-second street station with her maid last night to tell a story of a holdup on Sixth avenue between Twenty-third and Twenty-fourth streets. She said that at about 9 o'clock she was walking south on Sixth avenue and about midway in a block a man and two women approached and laid hold of her.

"Where's that fur coat of yours?" said the man. He caught her by the throat. The two women took her by the shoulders and before she was able to release herself she felt them seize her pocketbook. Then the three disappeared around the corner into Twenty-fourth street.

"Why didn't you scream?" asked Lieut. Shields, who was on the desk. "That's a pretty busy part of town at 9 o'clock at night. And it's well lighted too. There's a moving picture show just about where you were held up," repeated Miss Holcomb. "I was so surprised I couldn't."

(She explained that she thought, her assailants had been looking for an opportunity to hold her up for some time. She said that she usually wears a fur coat and that they knew it and would have taken that too if they had had the chance. Last night she was wearing a raincoat.)

In the purse that was stolen she was carrying two small purses. One of them, she said, contained \$25 in cash and the other a draft for \$135 which she had received yesterday from her brother in Chicago.

Lieut. Shields put detectives on the case.

NO UNDER SECRETARY OF STATE

House Insists on "Vice" After Mr. Fitzgerald Consults the Dictionary.

WASHINGTON, Feb. 24.—Representative Fitzgerald of New York had fun yesterday with the purists of the Senate, whom he charged with carelessness in the use of the English language. There was under consideration the Senate proposition to authorize the appointment of an Under Secretary of State. The House conferees on the legislative, executive and judicial appropriation bill had recommended that it agree to the amendment, with a change of the title to Vice-Secretary and a reduction of the salary from \$10,000 to \$7,500.

Mr. Fitzgerald said he had found by consulting the dictionary, which he commended to members, that Vice-Secretary was much to be preferred to Under Secretary. The former meant one who stands for another, while "under" was described to be the lower man or the one worsted in a conflict. "Far be it from me to suggest that the Senate meant that the Under Secretary was the man to be worsted in a diplomatic struggle, but it grieves me to see the carelessness with which members of that body deal with the English language."

The House refused to recede from its disagreement to the amendment, 38 to 124. The same action was had as to the proposed Fourth Assistant Secretary of State.

CHURCH TO RUN A THEATRE.

Atlanta Pastor Arranges to Give "The Servant in the House."

ATLANTA, Feb. 24.—One of the largest churches in this city, the Universalist, is making preparations on a large scale to have its own theatre, plays and actors. The movement was originated by the pastor, the Rev. E. Dean Ellenwood. The first play to be produced is the famous "Servant in the House." The lower floor of the church is being rapidly converted into a stage, with footlights, scenery, curtain and other properties. The Rev. Mr. Ellenwood, regarding the project, says:

"Contrary to recent pulpit utterances the theatre has had among all civilizations a distinctly religious origin, and is to-day capable of great moral good. In England the first plays were conducted by the Church specifically for the purpose of illustrating scriptural teaching and of quickening the popular conscience. They were called morality plays, and still survive in such impressive dramas as 'Everyman.'"

"I should not for a moment deny that in some instances the present day theatrical productions have harm in them, but it is equally true that present day religious exercises have harm in them. I should not, for that reason, wish to abolish religion or the Church, nor should I wish for that reason to wipe out the theatre."

HAD POISON IN HIS BEARD.

As He Ate It Fell on His Food and He Fell Over Unconscious—Pumped Out.

PHILADELPHIA, Feb. 24.—W. C. Deutz of 269 South Fourth street on Monday was the proud possessor of a beard which was the admiration and the envy of a large circle of fellow employees of the Mulford Chemical Company. To-day it is no more.

This morning while Mr. Deutz was weighing bichloride of mercury his beard came in contact with the deadly poison and many grains were secreted in it. Shortly afterward the whistle for the dinner hour blew and, being more hungry than discreet, the chemist went to lunch without preparing the facial appendage for the event, as was usually his wont.

At the table as Deutz ate the whiskers kept time to the masticating process, showering little grains of bichloride upon each particle of food. Soon afterward companions were horrified to see him tumble to the floor, his body doubled up in agony. Antidotes were given him, but of no avail, and the unconscious man was hurried to the hospital. There the stomach pump was used and the poison drawn from his system. Deutz rallied, quickly from the experience to face the fact that as long as the beard remained with the grains of poison secreted in it there was a possibility that he might again eat its contents. So he has no whiskers now.

Another Indiana County Goes Dry.

MARTINSVILLE, Ind., Feb. 24.—Morgan county voted under the local option law to-day and the result of the ballots was a dry victory by a majority of 10,556. Thirty-one precincts voted dry, five voted wet and one was a tie.

JUDGE HINTS AT DISBARMENT

FOR EX-JUDGE HATCH OF THE APPELLATE BENCH AND RUBINO

They Said Justice Erlanger's Proposed Receivership for the Washington Life Was for the Benefit of the Receivers—Supt. Hotchkiss Assumes Control.

At the close of a hearing in William Hepburn Russell's action against the Washington Life Insurance Company and the Pittsburgh Life and Trust Company before Justice Erlanger in Part XIII. of the Supreme Court yesterday the Court called up Henry A. Rubino of counsel for the Pittsburgh company and said that he would take steps to have Mr. Rubino and his associate, Judge Edward W. Hatch, punished by the Appellate Division for conduct unbecoming officers of the court in giving out the signed statement published in THE SUN on February 18. In this statement the attorneys declared that receivers were to be appointed by Justice Erlanger for the Washington Life Insurance Company for the benefit of the receivers and not for the benefit of the company.

There had been a two hour argument participated in by Alton B. Parker and William F. Sheehan for the insurance companies, State Superintendent of Insurance Hotchkiss and Attorney-General O'Malley for that department and Mr. Russell and Herbert R. Limburg in behalf of the policyholders' complaint. Mr. Russell, who had agreed at the conference at Albany on Monday to withdraw his action if the State Superintendent of Insurance took hold of the Washington Life until the litigation is settled, had declared that he would not consent to the agreement that was offered yesterday and demanded that the State Superintendent be appointed the receiver.

Justice Erlanger said he would take the papers in the case. Then he turned to Mr. Rubino and said:

"Now, Mr. Rubino, I will say a few words to you. Will you please stand?"

The lawyer looked interested and arose to his feet.

"On February 17," continued Justice Erlanger, "the Court had before it a very grave matter involving important questions. Hardly had the ink become dry on his opinion before there was published in only one paper in New York an article containing a statement in which it was charged that that statement was prepared by both of you and sent out for publication. Is that true?"

"Is what true?" asked Mr. Rubino.

"Whether you prepared that statement and signed it," replied Mr. Rubino.

"You realize of course," said the Court, "that it would have been an act of great rashness if you had made a statement in the presence of the Court to the effect that he was influenced solely in appointing receivers by a purpose to give the receivers a job. Had such a remark been made in open court you also realize that it would have been a criminal contempt and that summary punishment would immediately follow. Instead of that, smarting, perhaps, from the pain of defeat, you repaired to the privacy of your office and there spread your defamation. It was—the article, the statement—mendacious and in the highest degree unprofessional, and in the Court's view it seems that but one punishment should follow, and that is the severest which the law has provided, disbarment."

"You realized when you prepared your statement and when you caused this defamation to be spread that the Court was helpless and that the dignity of its position would not permit it to enter into any newspaper controversy with you or any other controversy. So believing that summary punishment could not follow, you gave what you now admit."

"I shall await the return of Judge Hatch before I certify this record to the Appellate Division, meantime giving the Judge an opportunity to appear before me immediately upon his return. I will then say what you will please say to Judge Hatch as to his return here and at that time the matter may be disposed of."

"I shall tell him, sir," said Mr. Rubino.

The prospect that a former Justice of the Appellate Division of the Supreme Court was to face disbarment proceedings made the corridors of the court house buzz with excitement. After consulting with his associates Mr. Rubino said that until the return of Judge Hatch in about a week he would have no statement to make.

Supt. Hotchkiss told the Court that by agreement of the two companies he had been put in control of the Washington Life, which was a solvent concern, and he suggested that such settlement of the order as should be made should omit any words creating receivers of a solvent company now in the hands of a State officer.

Supt. Hotchkiss took control of the assets of the Washington Life at noon yesterday. By the agreement signed yesterday the Superintendent is relieved from all liability in case any of the assets are damaged by fire or flood or are stolen, although in the case of malfeasance the department will be held liable. The agreement is to terminate and the status of the insurance companies to be restored either when a court of final jurisdiction determines the validity of the contract of reinsurance, when the Pittsburgh Life and Trust Company is admitted to do business in this State and the reinsurance is approved by the Superintendent, or when the Pittsburgh Life puts the Washington Life back into the condition it was in when the merger was effected last December. The agreement binds the successors of the present Superintendent of Insurance.

Miss Hall to Marry the Rev. Hugh Blackhead.

Mrs. David Prescott Hall of Boston has announced the engagement of her daughter, Miss Caroline Minton Hall, to the Rev. Hugh Blackhead of St. George's Church, New York. Miss Hall is a granddaughter of Mrs. Julia Ward Howe.

ONLY COMPLETE FLORIDA TRAIN

Captain John Smith, an operator at St. Augustine, Fla., has been ordered to St. Augustine with through cars to Palm Beach, Miami, Knights Key, etc.

GREAT DEAR SPRING WATER.

200 per case of 6 glass stoppered bottles.—Ad.

GANGPLANK SLIPS: 14 DROWN.

Attendants on Kaiserin Augusta Victoria and Dock Hands Lost at Hamburg.

Special Cable Despatches to THE SUN.

HAMBURG, Feb. 24.—As the work of disembarking cargo and taking on supplies was in progress to-day on the Hamburg-American steamer Kaiserin Augusta Victoria, due to sail next Saturday for New York, a gangplank slipped and thirty men fell into the water.

Fourteen of them got under the ice and were drowned. The others were rescued. The dead were stewards and stewardesses on the ship and dock laborers, all employees of the company.

The ship arrived here on the 18th and discharged all her passengers at once. LONDON, Feb. 24.—The Hamburg correspondent of the *Daily News* says that those who went overboard included men, women and children. Several of those who were rescued were injured.

LOST \$25,000 NECKLACE.

Miss Jennie Crocker Misses It After Mrs. C. P. Alexander's Ball.

SAN FRANCISCO, Feb. 24.—At a mardi gras ball given by Mrs. C. P. Alexander of New York last night at the St. Francis Hotel, Miss Jennie Crocker, her niece, lost a \$25,000 pearl necklace, which was a family heirloom.

The ball was limited to 402 guests, supposed to represent San Francisco's "Four Hundred."

Miss Jennie Crocker, only daughter of the late Col. Fred Crocker of the Southern Pacific, who has property in her own right worth \$10,000,000, owned the pearl necklace which she wore at her aunt's dance.

Miss Crocker left the ballroom and went to her own room at the St. Francis and on arriving there found that her necklace was gone. Detectives have been at work since trying to unravel the mystery, but they have been unable to solve it.

BRYAN GOING ON THE STAGE

Story That He Will Write a Novel, Dramatize It, and Then Act It.

MISSION, Tex., Feb. 24.—William Jennings Bryan, who recently bought a tract of land near here, is arranging to build a fine home thereon.

He has written to John J. Conway, of Mission, from whom he bought the land, that he will retire from the lecture platform for a year and spend that time on his farm here writing a novel. He will also dramatize the novel and put it on the stage.

Mr. Bryan says that he will probably be in the cast of his proposed play.

BETTER SERVICE TO BROOKLYN.

Sending All Express Subway Trains Through Works Well.

The new plan of running all express trains on the subway to the Flatbush avenue terminus in Brooklyn, and of putting in a shuttle service between the Bowling Green station and South Ferry was adopted yesterday. The change was recommended by Blon J. Arnold, the Public Service Commission's consulting engineer, and the commission said last night that it had materially lessened the crowded condition of the trains to Brooklyn. The service to Brooklyn has been increased fully 25 per cent, they say, and the loading of the trains has been much better equalized. During the rush hours yesterday the company succeeded in running trains from Brooklyn at one minute and forty-five seconds intervals. Previously the headway has been more than two minutes.

MCCURDY HAS LONG FLIGHT.

Covers 4 1/2 Miles in Bell Aerodrome—Slight Accident at the End.

BADDECK, N. S., Feb. 24.—Douglas McCurdy of Graham Bell's Aerial Experiment Association eclipsed all records of the association in ideal weather conditions to-day by flying four and one-half miles at an elevation of fifty feet above the ice.

McCurdy had full control of the machine all through, but in endeavoring to circle for the second time he found himself cramped for room and shut off power to avoid running into trees. He landed with slight damage, which will be repaired in a day or two. When the aerodrome reached the ice it skidded, breaking a part of the cord struts.

The best previous work by the Aerial Experiment Association was when Curtiss flew over a measured kilometer in Lieutenant Selfridge's Red Wing and won the Scientific American's prize.

30 DAYS FOR COLLEGE BOY.

Louis J. Henes Sentenced in New Haven for Auto Speeding—Takes Appeal.

NEW HAVEN, Feb. 24.—Louis J. Henes, a Sheffield senior, was sentenced to-day to thirty days in jail on the charge of reckless auto driving in the city. His home is in New York.

He was also fined \$5 and the cost of the court for not having his possession at the time of his arrest certificate showing authority to operate the car.

The testimony of the policemen was that the student dashed between two trolley cars at a junction point.

Judge Mathewson in deciding the case said that recklessness like that displayed by Henes must be stopped in this city. Henes declared that he had perfect control of his car and was not speeding. He gave \$300 bonds in an appeal to a higher court.

REJECTED WRIGHT AEROPLANE.

British War Office Proposed Foolish Test and Lost Its Opportunity.

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